

Drought Task Force Meeting
www.drought.sd.gov
Monday, October 29, 2012
2-3 pm CDT
State Emergency Operations Center

In attendance:

Jon Farris, SDDA	Steve Hasenohrl, WFS
Lynn Beck SDDENR	Jamie Crew, SDDA
Jeff Zimprich, NRCS	Craig Schaunaman, FSA
Paul Merriman, FMO	Katie Konda, SDDA
Courtney De La Rosa, SDDA	Doug Hinkle, FMO
Mark Rath, DENR	Dennis Today, State Climatologist
Aaron Jordan, NG	Jason Bauder, OEM
Kristi Turman, OEM	Tom Girschman, GF&P

Climatology update:

State Climatologist Dennis Today reported not a lot of change this week. The northeast part of the state did show a little improvement on the Drought Monitor due to some rains they received up there. The outlook shows a likelihood of temperatures staying warmer than average. The 8 to 14 day outlook shows near normal temperatures, and the northern tier of the state and the Black Hills will have better chances of precipitation. The November outlook calls for above average temperatures, with the eastern portion of the state showing below normal precipitation. The three month outlook (November to February) is showing above average temperatures, and the eastern portion of the state will be drier than average. Basically we are in a persisting drought pattern.

SDDA report:

Jamie Crew reported that SDDA is distributing the remaining donated hay that is left. A press release also went out asking the agricultural community what assistance producers are seeking as a result of the drought so SDDA can have more of a direction from the producers on what they are looking for from the SDDA.

FSA report:

Craig Schaunaman reported they have \$877,000 of ECP funds available for water projects. He also reported there was 241,000 acres of CRP that were hayed and grazed (out of 500,000 total CRP acres). Of the 241,000 acres, 210,000 acres were hayed and 31,000 acres were grazed.

NRCS report:

Nothing new to report.

DENR report:

Lynne Beck reported the flows on the Jim River and the Big Sioux River south of Brookings increased due to some recent rains. BOR dams in the west had no change, but there was more inflow than outflow which is a good sign. All lakes throughout the state are 1 to 2 feet below the outlets. Future action for DENR is to have the drinking water program identify what sources of water all the cities have and see if there are going to be future effects on those sources next year as the drought persists.

Wildfire report:

Steve Hasenohrl with WFS reported the wildfire activity has really slowed down recently. The high winds several weeks ago took down power lines that caused several fires. SEAT planes are still available for any fires.

Other agency reports:

GF&P: Tom Girschman with GF&P reported a press release was sent out before pheasant hunting season to remind hunters to be careful about driving in tall grass and starting wildfires. He says another one will go out before west river deer hunting season as well. GF&P and WFS are discussing the ongoing need for SEAT planes to be available through west river deer hunting season.

FMO: Nothing new to report.

National Guard: Nothing new to report.

The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13, 2012, from 2-3 pm in the State EOC amphitheater.